

## SECTION 5

### MUTUAL AID REQUIREMENTS

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The *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan* provides for state mobilization when all local and mutual aid resources have been depleted.

**State mobilization is not a replacement for mutual aid.**

The provisions within this *Mobilization Plan* provide for state mobilization when mutual aid resources are inadequate or over extended.

Mutual aid agreements provide for rapid assistance from neighboring fire jurisdictions to meet the immediate need requirements of an emergency situation demanding resources beyond those available from the local jurisdiction. The key elements of mutual aid – quick response from closest resources – cannot be provided by state mobilization. Rapid intervention by mutual aid resources can secure control over an emergency incident that may otherwise continue to escalate.

Mutual aid is an essential element of local fire protection.

- All local fire protection jurisdictions should join in countywide mutual aid agreements.
- Regional mutual aid agreements are encouraged.
- At a minimum, mutual aid agreements should encompass all adjacent fire jurisdictions, including those in other counties, regions, or states as applicable.

Extensive and deep mutual aid networks between local fire protection jurisdictions provide optimal emergency incident response and control potential, thereby maximizing community fire protection. The parameters for an authorization of state fire resources mobilization provide for the recognition of emergency situations that place excessive demands on mutual aid. It is the intent of those parameters that mutual aid be extended and strengthened insofar as possible.